

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 02095 221610Z
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TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SP
SUBJECT: PSOE'S GONZALEZ INTERVIEWED ON SPANISH TELEVISION; SLAMS
SUAREZ GOVT IN BONN PRESS CONFERENCE

1. PSOE SECGEN FELIPE GONZALEZ, ATTIRED IN COAT AND TIE
AND SOUNDING MUCH OF THEM TIME MORE LIKE A LEFT-LIBERAL
THAN A SOCIALIST, MADE HIS SPANISH TELEVISION DEBUT SATUR-
DAY NIGHT IN A TAPED, 20-MINUTE, PRIME-TIME INTERVIEW,
PART OF A RECENTLY INAUGURATED SERIES ON POLITICAL LEAD-
ERS AND PARTIES. DURING THE INTERVIEW, GONZALEZ MADE
THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPAL POINTS:

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PAGE 02 MADRID 02095 221610Z

2. ECONOMIC PRESCRIPTIONS. SPAIN'S CURRENT PROBLEMS
ARE THE RESULT OF THE SAD ECONOMIC RECORDS OF THE
PRECEDING AND CURRENT GOVTS. NO ONE HAS ALL THE ANSWERS,
BUT THE PRIORITY PROBLEMS ARE UNEMPLOYMENT, INFLATION,
AND THE EXTERNAL DEBT, IN THAT ORDER. PUBLIC EXPENDI-
TURES MUST BE INCREASED IN AREAS THAT GENERATE EMPLOY-
MENT. GOVT REVENUES CAN BE INCREASED BY 70PERCENT SIMPLY

THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TAX AND BUDGETARY MEASURES ALREADY UTILIZED IN OTHER WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

3. SOCIALISM AND PRIVATE PROPERTY. 1PERCENT OF THE SPANISH POPULATION RECEIVES 22PERCENT OF THE NATIONAL INCOME, WHILE THE POOREST 53PERCENT OF THE POPULATION RECEIVES ANOTHER 22PERCENT, A SITUATION THAT MUST BE CORRECTED. THE PSOE OPPOSES A STATE-RUN ECONOMY AND SUPPORTS THE MAINTENANCE OF PRIVATE PROPERTY, BUT WITHOUT "EXCESSIVE ACCUMULATION IN THE HANDS OF A FEW," MEANING THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF SPANISH SOCIALISM REMAINS A CLASSLESS SOCIETY (ELIMINATING THE VAST DIFFERENCES IN INCOME DISTRIBUTION THAT CURRENTLY OBTAIN). IN SPAIN, "LOSSES HAVE BEEN NATIONALIZED, WHILE PROFITS HAVE BEEN PRIVATIZED." OVER THE MEDIUM TERM, THERE ARE CERTAIN BASIC SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY, SUCH AS ELECTRICAL POWER GENERATING COMPANIES AND "A SECTOR OF THE CREDIT INSTITUTIONS," WHICH SHOULD BE NATIONALIZED, AS IS THE CASE IN WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES NOT EVEN GOVERNED BY THE LEFT.

4. SOCIALISM AND COMMUNISM. SOCIALISM CANNOT EXIST WITHOUT INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE LIBERTIES. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SOCIALISM AND COMMUNISM RESTS IN THE TOTAL STATE CONTROL OF THE ECONOMY WHICH OBTAINS IN ALL COUNTRIES CONTROLLED BY THE COMMUNISTS AND IN THE FACT THAT COMMUNISM ELIMINATES INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE LIBERTIES. THE INTERNAL ORGANIZATION OF SOCIALISM IS DEMOCRATIC, WHILE THAT OF COMMUNISM IS "HIERARCHIAL."

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PAGE 03 MADRID 02095 221610Z

5. FOREIGN POLICY. IN A BRIEF REFERENCE TO SPAIN'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS, CONZALEZ REITERATED THE PSOE'S BASIC ADVOCACY OF NEUTRALITY BUT NOTED THAT SPAIN, AFTER ALL, IS PART OF THE WEST. HE ARGUED FOR CONSIDERATION (UNSPECIFIED) BY THE SPANISH PEOPLE OF THE BASE AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S., POINTING OUT THAT THE U.S. HAD APPROVED IT BY DEMOCRATIC PROCEDURES, WHILE SPAIN HAD NOT.

6. ON SENSITIVE SOCIAL ISSUES, HE ADVOCATED DIVORCE, BUT WALKED A TIGHT ROPE ON ABORTION, SAYING IT WAS BAD BUT A FACT OF LIFE THAT SHOULD BE REGULATED RATHER THAN ALLOWED TO FLOURISH IN CLANDESTINITY.

7. MEANWHILE, ACCORDING TO MADRID'S ABC, GONZALEZ HAS KEPT UP THE PSOE LEADERSHIP'S ATTACKS ON THE SUAREZ GOVT (WHICH WERE PRECIPITATED BY THE RECENT LEGALIZATION OF THE PSOE "HISTORICAL" FACTION--PSOE-H) DURING HIS CURRENT SWING THROUGH WESTERN EUROPE. THE PSOE SEC GEN REPORTEDLY TOLD NEWSMEN IN BONN THAT:

--THE SUAREZ GOVT HAS DEMONSTRATED IN RECENT WEEKS A TENDENCY TO EMPLOY IN ITS BEHALF IN THE ELECTIONS THE APPARATUS OF THE FRANCO REGIME -- THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT, SYNDICATES, CORTES, RADIO AND TELEVISION. THE ISSUE OF THE GOVT'S INTENTIONS IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION AT THIS JUNCTURE.

--THE GOVT HAS EXHAUSTED THE POSSIBILITIES OF GOVT-OPPOSITION NEGOTIATIONS. SUAREZ AND HIS MINISTERS SHOULD CLARIFY THEIR POSITION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF BEING SAVED; SPAIN DOES NOT WANT ANOTHER "SAVIOUR," EVEN ONE NAMED SUAREZ.

8. COMMENT: GONZALEZ'S MODULATED TELEVISION COMMENTS ARE A PREVIEW OF THE PSOE'S APPROACH TO THE COMING ELECTIONS. THE PSOE SEEMS LIKELY TO CONCENTRATE ON SUCH ISSUES AS THE NECESSITY TO ELECT THOSE WHO WILL GUARANTEE A TRULY DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTION AND ON FISCAL REFORM AND CORRUPTION, WHILE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 MADRID 02095 221610Z

STAYING AWAY FOR POLITICALLY LOADED IDEOLOGICAL ISSUES OR FORMULATIONS. AS PSOE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY LUIS YANEZ TOLD US AGAIN LAST WEEK, THE PSOE CANNOT BE, OR BE PERCEIVED TO BE, A RADICAL PARTY IN ORDER FOR IT TO DO AT ALL WELL IN THE ELECTIONS. AS FOR GONZALEZ'S ATTACKS IN BONN ON THE SUAREZ GOVT, THEY ARE PART OF THE PSOE'S CONTINUING EFFORT TO PRESSURE SUAREZ INTO DECIDING AGAINST PLAYING A HIGHLY PARTISAN ROLE IN THE ELECTIONS AND AGAINST USING THE GOVERNMENTAL APPARATUS TO PROMOTE A SPECIFIC POLITICAL OPTION, PARTICULARLY THE SO-CALLED "UNION OF THE CENTER-LEFT," WHICH INCLUDES THE PSOE-H. EATON

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